27 N. 18th St.,
Newark, Feb. 2, 1874

My Dear Garrison,

Thanks for your letter received this morning. I have already written two numbers of my recollections of "The Early Anti-Slavery Days." My first relates to the time antecedent to your going to Baltimore; my second relates to your work in the Genius, and ends with an account of your imprisonment. My third will give the circumstances of your release, and the course you took up to the commencement of the Liberator in 1831. I enjoy the work highly, but what would I not give for a good chance to talk with you and to read to you for suggestion and criticism what I write!

95B

Pray answer me these questions:

1. What was the precise character of the Bermuda Petition of 1828, and how many signatures were procured for it? I take it for granted that you drew it up.

2. Did you write your original prose pieces for the Liberator in prison, or after your release?

3. What sonnets, if any, besides "The Suttless Prisoner" and "Freedom of the Mind" did you inscribe on the walls of your cell, or write in prison?

4. Please give me memoranda of your movements after your release — your lectures in New York, New Haven, Hartford and Boston, and the reception you met with.

5. Can you send me a copy

of the notice you issued that you would lecture on Boston Common if no church or Hall should be offered.

6. Can you give me any striking facts about your efforts to enlist the co-operation of the leading clergy and what they said to you?

—How I wish I could gain access to the files of the Liberator for the first ten or twelve years. I need them. I have volume one, but that is all. I need access also to a complete anti-slavery library, my own being very deficient.

One great object which I have in writing is to do justice to you. In my first number I describe the temper of the country after the Missouri compromise, and show how you broke the dead calm by your demand for immediate

emancipation, thus putting the anti slavery cause on a well-defined principle. I endeavor to make this point very clear. In my second, while doing justice to Lundy, I make the true discrimination between his plans and methods and your own, &c.

Another question: When did Whittier write ~~you~~ his lines to you? Was it in 1831, 2, or 3?

If I could afford to resign my salary, I should be strongly tempted to undertake myself to write the needed History of our cause. I am pained that no one has undertaken it, while those who know the facts are rapidly passing away.

Bowen, whatever may be the

value of his labors against the gallows, is like the horse-leech, continually crying, "Give, give." He borrows money in the most unscrupulous ways, making promises that are forgotten as soon as made. I should give him a wide berth. He is superior to Charles Spear in intellectual force, but like him after all.

I, too, was disappointed in Whittier's sketch of the Convention of 1833. It is good, but far less graphic than I expected.

Yours, ever, lovingly,

Oliver Johnson.

Can you answer my question at once? I hope so.